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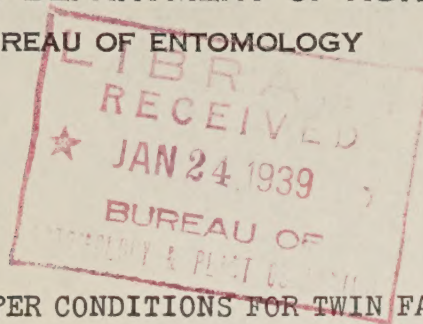
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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TRUCK CROP INSECT INVESTIGATIONS

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TWIN FALLS, IDAHO



FEBRUARY REPORT ON BEET LEAFHOPPER CONDITIONS FOR TWIN FALLS, JEROME, MINIDOKA AND CASSIA COUNTIES, IDAHO, FOR 1933.

This report gives all the available information on probable leafhopper populations during the coming spring and early summer in Twin Falls, Jerome, Minidoka and Cassia Counties, and is not applicable to other areas. Its purpose is not to advise regarding the planting of any crop, but is to furnish available information to the grower on one of the important limiting factors to beet production, to be used according to his best judgment. This report cannot take into consideration the numerous factors other than leafhopper damage, involved in the production of a good beet crop, nor the possible effects of abnormal spring weather on the time of the leafhopper migration.

All data available at this time are distinctly favorable to low leafhopper populations during the coming spring and early summer.

Populations last fall in the desert were severely reduced by late drought with consequent force feeding on unfavorable food plants, and, in the locally important breeding areas, were the lowest of which we have record. Only one unfavorable factor is to be noted. The total fall populations between Glens Ferry and Eastern Oregon were substantially higher than the very low fall populations of last year. Such information as is at present available indicates that a severe infestation is unlikely to result from this source.

The fall germination of the spring and winter host plants of the beet leafhopper, chiefly mustard, was greatly retarded owing to delayed rains and had barely occurred at the time the severe cold weather began. This resulted in making conditions for winter survival distinctly unfavorable, certainly as unfavorable as for the fall preceding the excellent yield of last year.

Winter conditions have been very favorable for further leafhopper population reduction, being most similar to the winter of 1931-32 which was followed by the past season of low populations and excellent beet yields. Winter survival, as indicated by hibernation cages in which 25,000 leafhoppers were kept, was even lower than for last year when low spring and summer populations occurred with consequent minor leafhopper injury.

From the standpoint of possible leafhopper injury the prospects for a good beet year are excellent, but it is obviously impossible to take into consideration growing conditions during the coming beet season, which so largely influence yields even in the years of low leafhopper populations.

Attention is called to the fact that even in years of good average yield some damage can be expected in outlying areas. No information available at this time would encourage us to advise the planting of beets in areas in close proximity to breeding grounds in spite of the present conditions of general favorable outlook.

Additional information obtained as the season progresses will be made available upon request.

Twin Falls, Idaho,
February 24, 1933.

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